

GENERAL NOTES

Eight-Year-Old Bank Swallow (*Riparia riparia*). Bank Swallows (*Riparia riparia*) are relatively easy to study in their nesting colonies in sand and gravel pits. As a result, several long term studies have involved this species. Notable was the work of Dayton Stoner and his wife who gathered much of the early data from investigations in Iowa and New York. Through banding, he was able to obtain information on the longevity of these birds. A six year old bird was recaptured in 1937 that had been banded as a juvenile in 1931 (Stoner and Stoner, *Bird-Banding*, 8: 175-176, 1937). Later Stoner and Stoner (*Science*, 96: 273-274, 1942) reported an individual bird originally banded as an adult that was at least seven years old when recaptured the final time.

Walter Nickell (*Personal Correspondence*, 1969), banding Bank Swallows in Michigan, has had no returns that would indicate an age greater than seven years from nearly 1300 returns in the last 12 years.

From the 148 returns obtained from Bank Swallows banded in Milwaukee, Waukesha, Racine, and Jefferson Counties of Wisconsin during ten years of banding by Edward Peartree, David Stoner (no relation to Dayton Stoner) and myself, only one six year old individual and no seven year olds have been recaptured. However, on June 15, 1968, David Stoner, banding at the Bodus Brothers Sand and Gravel Pit in the town of New Berlin, Waukesha County (T6N, R20E, Sec 4), recaptured a swallow (63-03843) I had banded as an adult female at the James Brothers Sand and Gravel Pit in the town of Pewaukee, Waukesha County (T7N, R19E, Sec 25) on June 13, 1961. This bird was at least eight years old at the time of recapture and had moved to a new nesting site 3.9 miles southeast, the James Brothers Pit having deteriorated since 1961.

This appears to be the oldest Bank Swallow to be reported. Earl Baysinger, Chief of the Bird Banding Laboratory (pers. comm.) commented that his information on old Bank Swallows was limited by the uncertain accuracy of some of the older return records in the Laboratory files, and the fact that "return" data haven't been entered into the computer files for nearly the past decade. However, he has definite information on only one bird approaching this one in known age: band number 49-33605, banded as a nestling on July 7, 1950, and caught by hand on June 21, 1958. He believes that there are undoubtedly older records in existence.

These comments deal with the species only in North America, as I have not attempted to trace records elsewhere in its range. To take an example at random, during 1965 no less than 66,459 "Sand Martins" were ringed in Great Britain (more than any other species that year), with no less than 2,119 recoveries, as the result of the special inquiry by the British Trust for Ornithology. (*Br. Birds*, 59: 144, November, 1966). These massive ringings, with a very high recapture rate, will no doubt show a few birds older than eight years, if in fact they have not already done so—Wallace N. MacBriar, Jr., Assistant Director, Milwaukee Public Museum, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53233.

Gray Jays Accept Transfer to a Different Nest in a New Location.

As part of a continuing study of the Gray Jay (*Perisoreus canadensis*) in Algonquin Provincial Park, Ontario, two nestlings, 15 days old, were removed from the nest and color-banded on 18 April 1969. One was marked with a red band on the right leg, the other with a blue band on the right leg, and they will be referred to as RR and BR. An hour after they had been returned to the nest both had climbed out and fallen to the ground 20 feet below. One, resting on a patch of snow, was alert and lively; the other, on a bed of moss, was lethargic and cold. Both were placed in the author's shirt front and carried to a heated building 200 yards away, and by that time both were alert and begging for food. Equipment used to reach the nest had been removed by truck to a distant point and it was not possible to climb the tree without it. The birds were placed on an old Gray Jay nest in a cardboard carton 6 inches deep, 9 inches wide, and 11 inches long, and this was secured five feet above the ground between two small trees 42 inches from the nest tree. To facilitate observation and provide easy access for the adults, one side of the carton was cut down to 3 inches.

The adults had reacted to the removal of the young with loud, chattering alarm calls and by flying in close to the bander, but they showed no concern over the change of location and surroundings except by picking up all the bits of nest